# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
NGOs Involved in Mid Day Meal Scheme
Venugopal Shri K. C.

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to include NGOs and private organizations to supply food under Mid Day Meal Scheme and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise ;
and
(b) whether the Government has taken into account the concern of workers currently working in the scheme and if so, the details thereof including the remedial steps taken in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States/UTs. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Apart from school-based kitchens, the MDM guidelines provide for Centralized kitchens run by NGOs for urban areas where there is space constraint. Recently, Mid-Day Meal Rules-2015 were amended and notified vide GSR No.471(E) dated 16th May, 2017. The amendment provides that every school shall have the facility for cooking meal in hygienic manner and the schools in urban areas and in identified rural areas which have good road connectivity and viable cluster of schools, for the purpose of leveraging efficiency gains, may use the facility of centralised kitchens for cooking meals wherever required in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government and the meal shall be served to children at respective school only. The State/UT-wise number of schools covered by NGOs is given at Annexure.
(b): MDM Guidelines envisage engagement of one cook-cum-helper in a school with up to 25 students, two cook-cum-helpers in a school with 26 to 100 students and one additional cookcum-helper for every addition of up to 100 students. The cook-cum-helpers are engaged by respective States/UTs as per above norms and their specific need. The Revised Guidelines 2017 for engagement of Civil Society Organizations/Non-Govt. Organisations (CSO/NGO) in MDM Scheme provides that "The State may ensure that, the cook-cum-helpers already engaged in the schools are not displaced in case of expansion of centralized kitchen. All efforts should be made to retain them as helpers for serving of meals, cleaning of utensils etc. in the school."